

How the STS-107 crew inspired us *(continued)*

■ What lingers with me, and inspires me, are the final efforts of Commander Rick Husband to manually control the re-entry trajectory of *Columbia* once he recognized the necessity for intervention. His courage and desire to make things right are profound.

Richard D. Järvinen, Code NX

■ I saw seven dedicated, extraordinary people working and preparing for a very important mission full of scientific experiments that would open doors to questions of science for the world to use. These seven show how all astronauts dedicate their lives unselfishly to the challenges that they have dreamed of and love. Their faces will always be etched in our memories, but the spirit of these diverse individuals will always motivate me to strive for excellence with humility, grace, faith and great humor.

Phillip Good, Science Engineering Analysis Testing, Metabolic Lab

■ I did not personally know all the members of STS-107, but the two that I knew pretty well were an inspiration to everyone they met. Willie and Rick were two of the most wonderful men I have had the pleasure of meeting; they were kind, honest and loyal. They loved their families and loved to talk about them; they personified the title “gentleman”: “A man whose conduct conforms to a high standard of propriety or correct behavior.”

Nancy Capra, Secretary, Orbital Space Plane Program Office

■ I had the honor and privilege of working with the individual astronauts starting following their Astronaut Candidate training all the way through STS-107 – including when they were assigned on other crews – and as the STS-107 crew, since they were actually assigned as that crew. They exuded teamwork, leadership, honesty, integrity, pride, honor, and loyalty every day. To know them at work, and personally, was a constant reminder about values – family values and commitment to excellence in every way. “They were my north, my south, my east, my west. My working week, my Sunday best.”

Linda Kennedy, STS-107 Postflight Appearance Program Lead, Astronaut Appearances Office

■ I checked in debris recovered by the field crews in Ft. Worth. One of the last items found was an unusual laminated business card found around Azle, Texas. On the front was a Hindu deity figure and on the back was both Indian and English writing which indicated a car rental business. Whether it belonged to her or not, I couldn’t help but think of Kalpana Chawla, of both the local pride she inspired in her home country and of the great global endeavor she participated in, helping to bring all of us on this tiny planet closer together.

John Clack, Projects Lead, Management Services Office

■ I helped with a Make-a-Wish Foundation tour for a boy who wished to be an astronaut. As we toured the crew equipment facilities, Laurel was inside packing her items for 107. When someone told her we were outside, she made time to come out to meet the boy, have her picture taken with him, and promised to not only send him a photo with her autograph, but of the entire crew. She got his address from me and did as she had promised. His mother called me to say how cherished all of those photos are to him.

Peter W. Pruyn, Instructor, Shuttle Control/Propulsion

■ The *Columbia* crew represented a universal, diverse and talented group of individuals committed to working together to bring good to humanity and the world. They leave us an example that regardless of color, race, religion and ideology, people can work together and make a positive and long-lasting contribution in the world.

Juan Manuel Traslavina, Assurance Integration Engineer, SAIC

■ Ilan was my schoolmate in graduate school. He was in a design group with me. He stirred in me an increased hunger for knowledge. His gentle kindness contributed to my success in attaining a Master’s degree. His deepest impact on me occurred the first time I saw Ilan floating in space, as it was a true moment of inspirational realization. It went beyond the beauty of seeing him touch the star he had dreamed of in school. It opened my eyes and heart to what could be.

Laurie Carrillo, Engineer, Space and Life Sciences

■ The STS-107 crew left an amazing legacy. What I noticed most was their spirit and lust for life. In every photo I have seen, it is quite obvious that they not only loved everything they did, but they enjoyed and cherished the friendship of each other. The smiles on their faces speak volumes. This past year, I have gained a special appreciation for all things – especially people – that are special in my life. Living through an experience like this makes you realize that every day is special. Laurel Clark’s quote says it all: “Life is a magical thing.”

Donna Baumer, Graphics Supervisor, IMPASS contract



William McCool, David Brown and Rick Husband take a break during training.

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Laurel Clark, Rick Husband and Kalpana Chawla are pictured prior to their sleep shift in bunk beds on the middeck of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

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■ The last crew of *Columbia*, like most crews, inspired me to do my best because they were counting on me. They had a job to do and so did I – they were very aware of the importance of the work of the people in the day-to-day operation of the space program and were always giving kudos and encouraging words. They knew that while their expertise was very important to the mission, they were ultimately putting their lives in our hands and trusted us to do our jobs right. I hope that we deserve the trust of the next crew.

Jean Alexander, CEE Equipment Specialist

■ The crew of *Columbia* inspired me by being willing to risk their lives for what they believed in. Despite many years of successful Shuttle launches, they were well aware of the dangers and risks involved. They were committed to answering the call of NASA to push the boundaries of science and increase our knowledge of human spaceflight. The positive public statements following the disaster by their families and friends have shown us that the crew of the *Columbia* were strong leaders within their families and their communities, using the abilities they had been given to serve those around them.

David B. Cook, Senior Engineer, ISS Hardware/Software Integration

■ I am inspired by the following qualities of the crew of *Columbia* (William McCool and Kalpana Chawla): art of living towards science, smiling faces, dedication, enthusiasm, humor, positive attitude, innovative adaptation to changes in collection of specimens, patience, precision and accuracy of data recording.

Vinodbala P. Shah, Scientist, Pharmacotherapeutics Lab

■ As brave souls that I could wish to have been, they became part of the universe we seek to know.

Ken Lassmann, Manager, JSC SBIR/STTR & CDDF Programs